



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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MEMBER
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Judiciary Committee
Wednesday, March 12, 2014
Testimony in opposition to,

S.B. 259, An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission Regarding the Enhanced Penalty for the Sale or Possession of Drugs Near Schools, Day Care Centers and Public Housing Projects

Honored Chairs, Ranking Members, and Members of the Judiciary Committee

I am not only a fellow State Representative but I am also a parent with young children. The thought of legislative proposals being pushed which would reduce drug-free school zones around our schools makes my blood boil.

I may not be among the criminal justice experts advocating for this brilliant idea, but I'm a parent and I have a question. Have we lost our minds? I don't care where you live in Connecticut; Cromwell, Portland, New Haven or Hartford-if you sell drugs near a school; a harsher penalty is truly merited and deserved. I get a lot of mail from constituents on hundreds of issues. Let me tell you about a few letters I haven't gotten.

The Drug Pusher looking to increase his business

'As you know business is tough right now. One thing that would help me increase my customer base would be a reduction in the drug free school zones. The increased penalties for selling drugs within 1500 feet of a school is too restrictive, could you kindly reduce the zone to 200 feet. It would be much easier for me to target innocent children with my deadly product without the risk of a long prison sentence. Once I get the children hooked on the drugs my business will thrive again.'

Parents wanting drug dealers to have greater access to their children

'We would like to see criminal activity increase, the potential for our children to get hooked on drugs and property values of our homes we spent our lives saving for decrease as drug pushers set up shop near playgrounds and ball fields in the area neighborhoods.'

As a state representative, I represent thousands of school children in Cromwell and Portland. Each one of these kids will face struggles in their lives, but giving drug dealers reduced penalties for selling close to their schools is one danger we should not impose on them.

Last year, when this proposal came to the floor of the House of Representatives, I stood in opposition against this proposal making my view known to the membership. I said it that day, and I'll say it again speaking to supporters of the bill and to drug dealers everywhere: "Stay away from my District. Stay away from my schools. And, stay away from my kids."

Thank you for your consideration and please reject S.B. 259.

Christie Carpino, State Representative, 32nd District

Please Visit My Website: www.repcarpino.com